



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2007-20

Thursday, February 22, 2007

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Wallace Fellows work on urban leadership project

MADISON—Twenty-seven exemplary urban principals gathered in Brookfield earlier this month for their second large group meeting as Wallace Fellows.

Chosen for their ability to lead and effect change, the principals come from the Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine school districts. They are the second group of principals to be part of the state's three-year project, funded by a Wallace Foundation grant, to transform school leadership in Wisconsin and develop a state and national model for master educator licensure.

"These principals exhibit courage and true devotion to education," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Through their work as Wallace Fellows, they are focused on advancing urban school leadership, strengthening their building-level leadership to improve student achievement, and contributing to the development of our master educator licensure model."

Urban principals typically face many of the major challenges in education, serving families of poverty, educating children for whom English is a second language, providing for children with disabilities, recruiting and retaining quality educators, and investing in programs for early learning opportunities. They work with a larger staff and student population that is typically more mobile than in suburban or rural areas.

"Because urban schools are usually large, urban principals must know how to create communities, both within and outside the school building, that are invested in the success of the school and its children," Burmaster said. "As these principals work in their schools and districts to close the achievement gap and ensure a quality education for every child, their efforts to bolster school leadership and administrative practice will have an impact statewide."

(more)

As Wallace Fellows, the 27 principals take university coursework, reflect on their administrative practice, work in small groups, provide peer support, and develop a portfolio. In small groups, principals share their knowledge and experience with learning communities and explore ways to plan, assess, and improve learning communities in their schools. They examine various ways to collect and use data to focus school improvement efforts. Each fellow's portfolio contains evidence of leadership efforts that have resulted in measured improvements in student learning and command of the skills and attributes of a master principal. A site visit by fellow principals and university personnel includes staff interviews and evaluation to verify that the principal is a master educator.

The Wallace Fellows work with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. This second group of Wallace Fellows benefits from earlier work in the Wisconsin Urban Schools Leadership Project. That earlier work found that although urban schools share many similar characteristics, there are vast differences in each school community; the mobility of students, and especially educators, in urban schools has a significant impact on the learning community; and each principal's connection to the central office strengthens the ability to make changes and improve the educational climate for student learning.

"Without a doubt, principals must know how to lead and work with a school leadership team," Burmaster said. "These Wallace Fellows are true school leaders. They make a difference in their schools' efforts to engage all students in academic learning and close the achievement gap."

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NOTES: A list of principals chosen to participate in the Wisconsin Urban Schools Leadership Project follows. This news release is available electronically at < http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2007_20.pdf >.

WALLACE FELLOWS II

Wisconsin Urban Schools Leadership Project

*A cooperative effort through The Wallace Foundation, Office of the Governor — Gov. Jim Doyle, and
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction — State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster*

Richard Aiello

Kenosha School District
Indian Trail Academy

Mary Ann Anderson

Green Bay Area School District
Jefferson Elementary School

Angela Apmann

Racine School District
Julian Thomas Elementary School

Patrick Batey

Green Bay Area School District
Aldo Leopold Community School

Rod Bohm

Green Bay Area School District
Edison Middle School

Kathy Bonds

Milwaukee Public Schools
Custer High School

Sallie Brown

Milwaukee Public Schools
Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning

Raymond Collie

Milwaukee Public Schools
Henry David Thoreau School

Virginia Cullen

Milwaukee Public Schools
Curtin Leadership Academy

Nancy Evans

Madison Metropolitan School District
Wright Middle School

Anne Fischer

Madison Metropolitan School District
Select Secondary Alternative Schools

Matthew Geiger

Racine School District
West Ridge Elementary School

Belinda Grantham

Kenosha School District
Head Start Program

Sandra Gunderson

Madison Metropolitan School District
Mendota Elementary School

Thyra Handford

Milwaukee Public Schools
Lancaster Elementary School

Alan Harris

Madison Metropolitan School District
East High School

Yolanda Hernandez

Milwaukee Public Schools
Hayes Bilingual Elementary School

William Hittman

Kenosha School District
LakeView Technology Academy

Debra Jupka

Milwaukee Public Schools
Maple Tree Elementary School

Lisa Kvistad

Madison Metropolitan School District
Lowell Elementary School

LoriSue Pelk

Racine School District
McKinley Middle School

Linda Roundtree

Milwaukee Public Schools
Ralph H. Metcalfe Elementary School

Elizabeth Sabo

Kenosha School District
Washington Middle School

Gayle Titus

Racine School District
Knapp Elementary School

Susan Valeri

Kenosha School District
Grewenow Elementary School

Theresa Willems

Green Bay Area School District
Danz Elementary School

Mary Zimmerman

Milwaukee Public Schools
Goodrich Elementary School